# EXHIBIT 1

Case: 4:23-cv-00456-SEP Doc. #: 1-1 Filed: 04/12/23 Page: 2 of 15 PageID #: 6



Service

Information

**Filings** 

Due

Hearings & Trials

Docket Entries

DIV 1

Charges, Judgments

& Sentences

Garnishments/

Execution

Civil

**Judgments** 

Sort Date Entries: **Display Options:** Click here to eFile on Case Descending All Entries **Click here to Respond to Selected Documents**  Ascending 03/10/2023 **Summons Issued-Circuit** Document ID: 23-SMCC-1972, for RESURGENT CAPITAL SERVICES, L.P..Summons Attached in PDF Form for Attorney to Retrieve from Secure Case. Net and Process for Service. 03/09/2023 ☐ Filing Info Sheet eFiling Filed By: RICHARD ANTHONY VOYTAS Jr. Motion Special Process Server Motion for Special Process Server. Filed By: RICHARD ANTHONY VOYTAS Jr. Pet Filed in Circuit Ct Petition. Filed By: RICHARD ANTHONY VOYTAS Jr. On Behalf Of: TONYA ROESNER 03/09/2023 **Judge Assigned** 

Case.net Version 5.14.62 Return to Top of Page Released 02/03/2023 Case: 4:23-cv-00456-SEP Doc. #: 1-1 Filed: 04/12/23 Page: 3 023 SEP C 00992

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY STATE OF MISSOURI

TONYA ROESNER,

Plaintiff,

V.

RESURGENT CAPITAL SERVICES, L.P.,

Serve at:

CSC-Lawyers Incorp. Service Company 221 Bolivar St., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Defendant.

Cause No

Division

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

### **PETITION**

COMES NOW Tonya Roesner ("Plaintiff"), by and through her undersigned counsel, and for her petition states as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages brought to the Court by an individual consumer for violations of the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.
  - 2. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

### **JURISDICTION**

3. This Court has jurisdiction of the FDCPA claim under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), as Defendant's collection activity was directed to Plaintiff at her residence in Missouri. Plaintiff suffered the harms described herein in Missouri. Venue is proper in the County of St. Louis, Missouri for this reason.

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### **PARTIES**

- 4. Plaintiff is a natural person currently residing in Saint Louis, Missouri. Plaintiff is a "consumer" within the meaning of the FDCPA.
- 5. The alleged debt Plaintiff owes arises out of consumer, family, and household transactions. Specifically, the alleged debt arose from consumer purchases of goods and services Plaintiff made on her U.S. Bank credit account.
- 6. Plaintiff has a bona-fide dispute of the debt. While Plaintiff did purchase consumer goods and services on her U.S. Bank credit account, the balance alleged of \$6,674.20 is not accurate to the best of Plaintiff's understanding as it overstates any amount that could be due or owing to Defendant.
- 7. Defendant Resurgent ("Defendant") is a foreign limited liability company with its principal place of business located outside the state of Missouri.
- 8. The principal business purpose of Defendant is the collection of debts nationwide;

  Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due to another entity.
- 9. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers through means of using mail and telephone. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

### **FACTS**

- 10. Defendant's collection activity, of which Plaintiff disputes, occurred within the previous twelve (12) months.
- 11. On January 04, 2023, Defendant attempted to collect the alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff via mail by sending its collection letter to Plaintiff.
  - 12. Plaintiff believed the balance to be suspicious for the reasons stated above.

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- 13. Accordingly, Plaintiff hired an attorney to advise her with respect to the debt that Defendant was trying to collect.
- 14. Plaintiff paid her attorney a significant fee for this representation to ensure that Defendant would be compelled to deal with her attorney once Plaintiff informed Defendant that she had retained counsel.
- 15. After retaining counsel, Plaintiff called Defendant to provide her attorney's contact information and to advise Defendant that she disputed the debt.
- 16. After verifying Plaintiff's identity, Plaintiff informed Defendant that she had hired an attorney to help her in regards to the alleged debt.
- 17. Defendant, rather than taking Plaintiff's attorney's contact information and ending the call, proceeded to attempt to collect on the debt. Specifically, Defendant told Plaintiff that "We are the debt collection agency now. We are able to negotiate with you and provide you with a lower amount to settle the debt. It's going to be the same thing with the lawyer."
- 18. This was an attempt to collect directly from Plaintiff and an attempt to make it seem that Plaintiff's decision to hire counsel was an unbeneficial one.
  - 19. Plaintiff reiterated that she prefers her lawyer to deal with Defendant.
- 20. Defendant's above-described conduct has caused Plaintiff to incur actual damages including but not limited to attorneys' fees paid to her counsel, anxiety, frustration, and worry.
- 21. Further, Defendant's above-described conduct has caused Plaintiff to suffer the following additional injuries in fact:
  - a. Plaintiff has been deprived of her statutorily created right to attorney representation on a debt.

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- 22. The injuries in fact are fairly traceable to the challenged actions of Defendant in that Defendant engaged in the phone call with Plaintiff.
- 23. Plaintiff's injuries in fact are likely to be redressed by a favorable decision in this Court.

### **COUNT I: VIOLATION OF THE FDCPA**

- 24. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs.
- 25. In its attempts to collect the alleged debt from Plaintiff, Defendant has committed violations of the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Refusing to cease collection communications with Plaintiff once Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff was represented by counsel. 15 U.S.C. § 1692c.
  - b. Engaging in harassing, abusive, deceptive, misleading, unfair, and unconscionable conduct in the collection of a debt, including but not limited to refusing to acknowledge Plaintiff's right to attorney representation. 15 U.S.C. § 1692d-f.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant for:

- A. Judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- B. Actual damages in an amount to be determined by the jury;
- C. Statutory damages, costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k); and
  - D. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

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Respectfully submitted,

### **VOYTAS LAW, LLC**

By: /s/ Richard A. Voytas, Jr. Richard A. Voytas, #52046 David A. Weber, #70409 MO 7321 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Ste. 400B St. Louis, MO 63125 Phone: (314) 380-3166

Email: rick@voytaslaw.com david@voytaslaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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In the

## **CIRCUIT COURT**Of St. Louis County, Missouri

	Γ	For File Stamp Only	٦
March 7, 2023	-		
Date			
Case Number	-		
Division	-		

L

TONYA ROESNER
Plaintiff/Petitioner

Case Number
vs.

RESURGENT CAPITAL SERVICES, L.P.
Division

### **REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROCESS SERVER**

Comes now Plaintiff	, pursuant
Requesting	
·	sk requests the appointment of the Circuit Clerk of
Action Legal Process. Ronald Rugen. 131 W High	gh Street, #6944. Jefferson City, MO 65101. (888) 511-1919
Name of Process Server A	ddress Telephone
Name of Process Server A	ddress or in the Alternative Teephone
Name of Process Server A	ddress or in the Alternative Telephone
	e summons and petition in this cause on the below al process server does not include the authorization
to carry a concealed weapon in the perfor	mance thereof.
SERVE: CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Company	SERVE:
Name 221 Bolivar St.	Name
Address _Jefferson City, MO	Address
City/State/Zip	City/State/Zip
SERVE:	SERVE:
Name	Name
Address	Address
City/State/Zip	City/State/Zip
Appointed as requested:	
JOAN M. GILMER, Circuit Clerk	/s/ Richard A. Voytas, Jr. Signature of Attorney/Plaintiff/Petitioner 52046
By	Bar No.
Deputy Clerk	_7321 S. Lindbergh Blvd, Ste 400B, St. Louis, MO Address
	_(314) 380-3166 (314) 380-3166 Phone No. Fax No.
Date	r none ito.

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### Local Rule 28. SPECIAL PROCESS SERVERS

(1) Any Judge may appoint a Special Process Server in writing in accordance with the law and at the risk and expense of the requesting party except no special process server shall be appointed to serve a garnishment [except as allowed by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 90.03(a)].

This appointment as Special Process Server does not include the authorization to carry a concealed weapon in the performance thereof.

- (2) The Circuit Clerk may appoint a natural person other than the Sheriff to serve process in any cause in accordance with this subsection;
  - (A) Appointments may list more than one server as alternates.
- (B) The appointment of a person other than the Sheriff to serve process shall be made at the risk and expense of the requesting party.
- (C) Any person of lawful age, other than the Sheriff, appointed to serve process shall be a natural person and not a corporation or other business association.
- (D) No person, other than the Sheriff, shall be appointed to serve any order, writ or other process which requires any levy, seizure, sequestration, garnishment, [except as allowed by Missouri Supreme Court Rule 90.03(a)], or other taking.
- (E) Requests for appointment of a person other than the Sheriff to serve process shall be made on a "Request for Appointment of Process Server" electronic form, which may be found on the Court's Web Site, https://stlcountycourts.com/forms.
- (F) This appointment as Special Process Server does not include the authorization to carry a concealed weapon in the performance thereof.

### SERVICE RETURN

Any service by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office shall be scanned into the courts case management system. Any service by another Sheriff or a Special Process Server or any other person authorized to serve process shall return to the attorney or party who sought service and the attorney shall file the return electronically to the Circuit Clerk.

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In the

### **CIRCUIT COURT** Of St. Louis County, Misse

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	March 7, 2023			
	Date			
	Case Number			
	Division			

TONYA ROESNER Plaintiff/Petitioner	Date	
VS.	Case Number	
RESURGENT CAPITAL SERVICES, L.P. Defendant/Respondent	Division	L

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Comes now Plaintiff	, pursuant
Requesti	• •
·	risk requests the appointment of the Circuit Clerk of
	ligh Street, #6944. Jefferson City, MO 65101. (888) 511-1919 Address Telephone
Name of Process Server	Address or in the Alternative Telephone
Name of Process Server	Address or in the Alternative Telephone
. , ,	he summons and petition in this cause on the below cial process server does not include the authorization ormance thereof.
SERVE:	SERVE:
CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Company Name 221 Bolivar St.	Name
Address  Jefferson City, MO	Address
City/State/Zip	City/State/Zip
SERVE:	SERVE:
Name	Name
Address	Address
City/State/Zip	City/State/Zip
Appointed as requested:	
JOAN M. GILMER, Circuit Clerk	/s/ Richard A. Voytas, Jr. Signature of Attorney/Plaintiff/Petitioner
By/s/Adam Dockery	_52046 Bar No.
Deputy Clerk 3 / 10 / 2023	7321 S. Lindbergh Blvd, Ste 400B, St. Louis, MO Address
Date	(314) 380-3166(314) 380-3166 Phone No. Fax No.

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### IN THE 21ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

Judge or Division:	Case Number: 23SL-CC00992
BRIAN H MAY	
Plaintiff/Petitioner:	Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Address
TONYA ROESNER	RICHARD ANTHONY VOYTAS Jr.
	7321 S. LINDBERGH BLVD
	SUITE 101
vs.	SAINT LOUIS, MO 63125
Defendant/Respondent:	Court Address:
RESURGENT CAPITAL SERVICES, L.P.	ST LOUIS COUNTY COURT BUILDING
Nature of Suit:	105 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CC Other Tort	CLAYTON, MO 63105

(Date File Stamp)

### **Summons in Civil Case**

The State of Missouri to: RESURGENT CAPITAL SERVICES, L.P.

Alias:

CSC LAWYERS INC SERV CO 221 BOLIVAR ST. JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

COURT SEAL OF



ST. LOUIS COUNTY

You are summoned to appear before this court and to file your pleading to the petition, a copy of which is attached, and to serve a copy of your pleading upon the attorney for Plaintiff/Petitioner at the above address all within 30 days after receiving this summons, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to file your pleading, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have special needs addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act, please notify the Office of the Circuit Clerk at 314-615-8029, FAX 314-615-8739, email at SLCADA@courts.mo.gov, or through Relay Missouri by dialing 711 or 800-735-2966, at least three business days in advance of the court proceeding.

10-MAR-2023

Date

**Further Information:** 

ΑI

#### Sheriff's or Server's Return

	Sheriir's or Server's Return		
Note to serving offic	cer: Summons should be returned to the court within thirty days after t	the date of issue.	
I certify that I have s	erved the above summons by: (check one)		
delivering a copy	of the summons and a copy of the petition to the Defendant/Responde	ent.	
leaving a copy of	the summons and a copy of the petition at the dwelling place or usual	abode of the Defendant/Respondent w	ith
	a person at least 18 years of ag	ge residing therein.	
[ (for service on a	corporation) delivering a copy of the summons and a copy of the petition	on to	
	(name)		(title).
other			·
n	(County/City of St. Louis), MO, on	(date) at	(time)
Printed	1 Name of Sheriff or Server	Signature of Sheriff or Server	
	Must be sworn before a notary public if not served by an a	uthorized officer:	
	Subscribed and sworn to before me on	(date).	
(Seal)	My commission expires:		

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Sheriff's Fees, if applica					
Summons	\$				
Non Est	\$				
Sheriff's Deputy Salary					
Supplemental Surcharge	\$10.00				
Mileage	\$ (	miles @ \$	per mile)		
Total	\$		•		
A copy of the summons and a copy of the petition must be served on each Defendant/Respondent. For methods of service on all classes of					
suits, see Supreme Court	Rule 54.		•		

Case: 4:23-cv-00456-SEP Doc. #: 1-1 Filed: 04/12/23 Page: 14 of 15 PageID #: 18 THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

Twenty First Judicial Circuit

#### NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

### **Purpose of Notice**

As a party to a lawsuit in this court, you have the right to have a judge or jury decide your case. However, most lawsuits are settled by the parties before a trial takes place. This is often true even when the parties initially believe that settlement is not possible. A settlement reduces the expense and inconvenience of litigation. It also eliminates any uncertainty about the results of a trial.

Alternative dispute resolution services and procedures are available that may help the parties settle their lawsuit faster and at less cost. Often such services are most effective in reducing costs if used early in the course of a lawsuit. Your attorney can aid you in deciding whether and when such services would be helpful in your case.

### Your Rights and Obligations in Court Are Not Affected By This Notice

You may decide to use an alternative dispute resolution procedure if the other parties to your case agree to do so. In some circumstances, a judge of this court may refer your case to an alternative dispute resolution procedure described below. These procedures are not a substitute for the services of a lawyer and consultation with a lawyer is recommended. Because you are a party to a lawsuit, you have obligations and deadlines which must be followed whether you use an alternative dispute resolution procedure or not. IF YOU HAVE BEEN SERVED WITH A PETITION, YOU MUST FILE A RESPONSE ON TIME TO AVOID THE RISK OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT, WHETHER OR NOT YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE AN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE.

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures**

There are several procedures designed to help parties settle lawsuits. Most of these procedures involve the services of a neutral third party, often referred to as the "neutral," who is trained in dispute resolution and is not partial to any party. The services are provided by individuals and organizations who may charge a fee for this help. Some of the recognized alternative dispute resolutions procedures are:

- (1) <u>Advisory Arbitration:</u> A procedure in which a neutral person or persons (typically one person or a panel of three persons) hears both sides and decides the case. The arbitrator's decision is not binding and simply serves to guide the parties in trying to settle their lawsuit. An arbitration is typically less formal than a trial, is usually shorter, and may be conducted in a private setting at a time mutually agreeable to the parties. The parties, by agreement, may select the arbitrator(s) and determine the rules under which the arbitration will be conducted.
- (2) <u>Mediation:</u> A process in which a neutral third party facilitates communication between the parties to promote settlement. An effective mediator may offer solutions that have not been considered by the parties or their lawyers. A mediator may not impose his or her own judgment on the issues for that of the parties.

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- Case: 4:23-cv-00456-SEP Doc. #: 1-1 Filed: 04/12/23 Page: 15 of 15 PageID #: 19
- (3) <u>Early Neutral Evaluation ("ENE"):</u> A process designed to bring the parties to the litigation and their counsel together in the early pretrial period to present case summaries before and receive a non-binding assessment from an experienced neutral evaluator. The objective is to promote early and meaningful communication concerning disputes, enabling parties to plan their cases effectively and assess realistically the relative strengths and weaknesses of their positions. While this confidential environment provides an opportunity to negotiate a resolution, immediate settlement is not the primary purpose of this process.
- (4) Mini-Trial: A process in which each party and their counsel present their case before a selected representative for each party and a neutral third party, to define the issues and develop a basis for realistic settlement negotiations. The neutral third party may issue an advisory opinion regarding the merits of the case. The advisory opinion is not binding.
- (5) Summary Jury Trial: A summary jury trial is a non binding, informal settlement process in which jurors hear abbreviated case presentations. A judge or neutral presides over the hearing, but there are no witnesses and the rules of evidence are relaxed. After the "trial", the jurors retire to deliberate and then deliver an advisory verdict. The verdict then becomes the starting point for settlement negotiations among the parties.

### Selecting an Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedure and a Neutral

If the parties agree to use an alternative dispute resolution procedure, they must decide what type of procedure to use and the identity of the neutral. As a public service, the St. Louis County Circuit Clerk maintains a list of persons who are available to serve as neutrals. The list contains the names of individuals who have met qualifications established by the Missouri Supreme Court and have asked to be on the list. The Circuit Clerk also has Neutral Qualifications Forms on file. These forms have been submitted by the neutrals on the list and provide information on their background and expertise. They also indicate the types of alternative dispute resolution services each neutral provides.

A copy of the list may be obtained by request in person and in writing to: Circuit Clerk, Office of Dispute Resolution Services, 105 South Central Ave., 5th Floor, Clayton, Missouri 63105. The Neutral Qualifications Forms will also be made available for inspection upon request to the Circuit Clerk.

The List and Neutral Qualification Forms are provided only as a convenience to the parties in selecting a neutral. The court cannot advise you on legal matters and can only provide you with the List and Forms. You should ask your lawyer for further information.

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